

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-42. (canceled)

Claim 43. (currently amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is to be reproduced;

~~stepping preventing~~ reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of ~~said~~ ~~step of checking a~~ the checked security; and

~~performing a reproducing process of~~ said contents data and consuming said electronic use right when said electronic use right is valid as a result of ~~said step of checking a~~ the checked security;

wherein said electronic use right includes a header, a valid start date, an encryption type, listening rights data, an error correction code, and a software for decoding encryption; the electronic use right is consumed by subtracting an amount from the listening rights data based on a charge condition found in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

Claim 44. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein, when said electronic use right is valid as a result of the checked ~~said~~ ~~step of checking a~~ security, determining whether there is

~~sufficient listening rights data said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains is discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of said contents data is not executed.~~

Claims 45-46. (canceled)

Claim 47. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein said electronic use right further includes an encryption software data regarding header and at least valid start year/month/day, data indicative of a kind of encryption, data regarding the electronic use right, and an error correction code.

Claim 48. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, wherein when ~~it is determined that~~ said electronic use right is invalid as a result of ~~said step of checking a~~ the checked security, a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified of such a fact.

Claim 49. (currently amended) A reproducing method of contents data, comprising the steps of:

checking a security for an electronic use right that is used in a charging process that is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is to be reproduced;

~~stopping preventing reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of said step of checking a the checked security; and~~

~~performing reproducing process of said contents data and performing the charging process based on said electronic use right, when said electronic use right is valid as a result of said step of checking a the checked security;~~

wherein said electronic use right includes a header, a valid start date, an encryption type, listening rights data, an error correction code, and a software for decoding encryption; the charging process is performed by subtracting an amount from the listening rights data based on a charge condition found in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

Claim 50. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein, when said electronic use right is valid as a result of the checked~~said step of checking a security, determining whether there is sufficient listening rights data said electronic use right of an amount necessary for the reproducing process of said contents data remains is discriminated, and when said electronic use right of the amount necessary for the reproducing process of~~

~~said contents data does not remain, the reproducing process of
said contents data is not executed.~~

Claims 51-53. (canceled)

Claim 54. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, wherein when ~~it is determined as a result of said step of checking a security that~~ said electronic use right is invalid, a management organization for managing said electronic use right is notified ~~of such a~~ fact.

Claim 55. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 49, further comprising a step of restoring ~~wherein when said electronic use right is restored, a previous electronic use right is replaced by~~ replacement with a new electronic use right.

Claim 56. (currently amended) The reproducing method of contents data according to claim 43, further comprising a step of restoring ~~wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding~~ by replacement with a new electronic use right and transmitting a reproduction history of the reproduced contents data reproduced when said electronic use

~~right is restored is transmitted~~ to a management organization for managing said electronic use right.

Claim 57. (currently amended) A reproduction control method comprising the steps of:

storing an electronic use right purchased from a management organization into a memory in a player;

checking a security for said electronic use right that is ~~said~~ used in a charging process which is executed when compressed and/or encrypted contents data is to be reproduced by the player;

~~stopping-preventing~~ reproduction of said contents data when said electronic use right is invalid as a result of ~~said~~ ~~step of checking at~~ the checked security; and

~~performing a reproducing process of~~ said contents data and executing the charging process based on said electronic use right, when said electronic use right is valid as a result of the checked ~~said step of checking a security;~~

wherein said electronic use right includes a header, a valid start date, an encryption type, listening rights data, an error correction code, and an encryption software; the charging process is performed by subtracting an amount from the listening rights data based on a charge condition found in subordinate data associated with said contents data.

Claim 58. (currently amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 57, further comprising a step of restoring ~~wherein when said electronic use right is restored, a previous electronic use right is replaced~~by replacement with a new electronic use right.

Claim 59. (currently amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 57, further comprising a step of restoring ~~wherein when said electronic use right is restored, data regarding~~ by replacement with a new electronic use right and transmitting a reproduction history of the reproduced contents data ~~is transmitted~~ to said management organization for managing said electronic use right.

Claim 60. (currently amended) The reproduction control method according to claim 59, wherein when said reproduction history exceeds a predetermined permission amount, said management organization ~~to~~ ~~inhibits the~~ reproduction of the contents data by said player.

Claim 61. (canceled)